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Assembly Republican's Last Line of Defense is Indefensible *by Mayor Tom Barrett*

As details of the Wisconsin State Assembly Republican Budget emerge from the darkness of closed door negotiations, one thing is quite clear: the Assembly Republicans' promise to protect our state's most vulnerable citizens has been broken.

Just 12 short days ago, Republican Speaker Huebsch said that Assembly Republicans are committed to investing in education and protecting our state's most vulnerable citizens. 'Republicans are the last line of defense,' Speaker Huebsch said.

The Assembly Republican Budget is not a last line of defense; it's a full retreat from protecting Milwaukee property taxpayers, our young people, our police and our public services. The Assembly Republicans are sticking it to Milwaukee.

Assembly Republicans have cut our shared revenue payment by \$32.7 million, deleted the \$21 million for school choice property tax relief while expanding the taxpayer funded program, and eliminated the school safety funding waiver meaning Milwaukeeans will have to pay more for putting police in schools.

In addition to wiping out \$53 million in property tax relief and demanding that Milwaukeeans pay more of their property taxes for School Choice, the Assembly Republicans decided that Milwaukee kids don't need summer jobs and our families and community don't need a School of Public Health.

To top it all off, the Assembly Republicans inserted themselves into local collective bargaining by eliminating the residency requirement for Milwaukee Public School teachers without providing the taxpayers with anything in return.

The Assembly Republican's Last Line of Defense budget is, in a word, indefensible.